

This listing of claims will replace the originally filed claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1 – 15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (new): A medicinal composition to treat, minimize, or prevent post-ischemic brain cell deterioration that comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

- a) nitrous oxide, and
- b) a nitrous oxide donor.

Claim 17 (new): The medicinal composition according to Claim 16, wherein said composition further comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

- a) xenon, and
- b) a xenon donor.

Claim 18 (new): The medicinal composition according to Claim 16, wherein said composition further comprises at least one gaseous component selected from the group consisting of:

- a) oxygen,
- b) nitrogen, and
- c) argon.

Claim 19 (new): The medicinal composition according to Claim 18, wherein said gaseous component comprises:

- a) oxygen, and
- b) nitrogen.

Claim 20 (new): The medicinal composition according to Claim 16, wherein at least part of said nitrous oxide or nitrous oxide donor is in gaseous form.

Claim 21 (new): The medicinal composition according to Claim 16, wherein said composition is inhalable.

Claim 22 (new): The medicinal composition according to Claim 17, wherein said xenon or xenon donor is in gaseous form.

Claim 23 (new): The medicinal composition according to Claim 16, wherein said composition comprises an effective proportion of said nitrous oxide or nitrous oxide donor.

Claim 24 (new): The medicinal composition according to Claim 16, wherein said nitrous oxide or nitrous oxide donor comprises about 80% by volume of the total composition.

Claim 25 (new): The medical composition according to Claim 24, wherein said nitrous oxide or nitrous oxide donor comprises about 75%.

Claim 26 (new): The medicinal composition according to Claim 17, wherein said xenon or xenon donor comprises less than about 60% by volume of the total composition.

Claim 27 (new): The medicinal composition according to Claim 26, wherein said xenon or xenon donor is equal to or less than about 50%.

Claim 28 (new): The medicinal composition according to Claim 18, wherein said oxygen is in the range of from about 19% to about 25% by volume of the total composition.

Claim 29 (new): The medicinal composition according to Claim 19, wherein said oxygen is in the range of from about 19% to about 25% by volume of the total composition.

Claim 30 (new): The medicinal composition according to Claim 16, wherein said nitrous oxide is inhalable.

Claim 31 (new): The medicinal composition according to Claim 16, wherein said composition is placed in a pressurized gas container.

Claim 32 (new): The medicinal composition according to Claim 31, wherein said container is a gas bottle.

Claim 33 (new): A method for treating, minimizing, or preventing post-ischemic brain cell deterioration comprising:

- i) administering a medicinal composition comprising nitrous oxide or nitrous oxide donor.

Claim 34 (new): The method according to Claim 33, wherein said medicinal composition is inhalable.

Claim 35 (new): The method according to Claim 33, wherein said method further comprises:

- ii) adding xenon or a xenon donor to the composition.

Claim 36 (new): The method according to Claim 33, wherein said method further comprises adding at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

- a) oxygen,
- b) nitrogen, and
- c) argon.

Claim 37 (new): The method according to Claim 36, wherein said method comprises adding:

- a) oxygen, and
- b) nitrogen.

Claim 38 (new): The method according to Claim 35, wherein said xenon or xenon donor is in gaseous form.

Claim 39 (new): The method according to Claim 33, wherein said nitrous oxide or nitrous oxide donor is in gaseous form.

Claim 40 (new): The method according to Claim 33, wherein said method further comprises administering a therapeutically - effective amount of said nitrous oxide or nitrous oxide donor.

Claim 41 (new): A method for treating, minimizing, or preventing post-ischemic brain cell deterioration comprising:

- i) administering a medicinal composition comprising nitrous oxide or nitrous oxide donor, and
- ii) providing neuroprotective action in the brain.